

The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1913.

A BUDGET FOR ECONOMY.

President Taft has evidently thrown the full and final weight of his administration in favor of economy by urging, in what will presumably be his last message, the introduction of a national budget system for regulating the income and expenses of the United States. The reckless voting of appropriations in the last few weeks of the expiring Congress makes his warning and advice especially timely. The New York Times points out that the Senate recently voted \$180,312,000 in twenty minutes and spent most of that time deciding upon the inclusion of an item of \$5,000. The House has been equally careless of money. It is a question of chance whether we have a surplus or a deficit at the end of the fiscal year. Change in the matter of expenditure of public funds almost invariably results in the deficit.

That the appropriation of a billion dollars ought to be made according to some carefully formulated schedule of income and needs is evident to the most inexperienced in public affairs. The amounts voted for various departments should bear at least some approximate ratio to the revenues that must supply funds. This is merely common sense, such as every good housewife practices monthly for the proper maintenance of her family. No other large nation in the world spends its funds without a more careful checking of the items against each other and a reasonable adjustment of the claims of various departments.

It is argued that a rich nation can afford extravagance. We think this futile form of patriotism is no longer worthy of consideration. The question is not how much we have to spend, but how much we get in return for what we do spend. The question of economy will become more and more pressing as the people awake to the folly of senseless extravagance. We believe that it will become a question for national platforms as well as for the isolated efforts of the Presidents or an occasional department head. Sooner or later we must cast up accounts and find out where we stand. Large enterprises call for funds. To decide what can be given them, we must arrange our current expenses and overhead charges on a sound basis. In the end, President Taft's chief accomplishment may prove his constant and righteous insistence on economy in expenditure and a regular and systematic adjustment of income to outgo.

DISTURBING THE BUTTERFLIES.

Whatever Woodrow Wilson may be able to do to the political morass, he has already put several wide dents in the social armor. He began by vetoing the inaugural ball, and urging that his family be spared the physical pressure of some thousands of hands at a reception. He took the admirable ground that his inauguration was not primarily a society function or a mere display of his family. We believe the latter ultimatums have sent both a thrill and a chill down the political spines of Washington social leaders.

He has refused to become a member of the Chevy Chase Club. He has no time, if reports of his reasons are accurate, to devote to posing in a pink coat, or pursuing the elusive golf ball over the links. He has already hung out the sign "Strictly business" on the White House door. Mrs. Wilson, too, has done her share to indicate that there will be a literal sense to a new regime in the presidential mansion. She has shocked the peacocks of diplomatic and political life with the statement that she expects to dress on \$1000 a year. To some good spenders at Washington this seems as shocking as if she had declared she were going to wear calico wrappers and a sunbonnet. They cannot conceive of a First Lady of the Land who does not go in for gowns and millinery. What glory is there in being of the elite unless you spend enough on costume to put your position to support an average American family in comfort, and almost in luxury?

We do not believe that the almost brusque refusal of the next President to become a member of Chevy Chase is an incident. His whole course suggests some well-formulated principle of simplicity and democracy in his official and social life. He would not run the risk of offending many charming people unless he had decided on a consistent policy for all such problems. He cannot even be blind to the fact that the ordinary American citizen expects a certain amount of spectacular display in his public servants. The common folks enjoy parades more than principles every day in the week. A sombre, business administration will make little appeal to popular fancy, unless it has other elements that win the heart. Perhaps the democratic and Spartan simplicity suggested by the Wilsons will supply this need. Instead of enjoying a vicious splendor in the adventures of the President, the nation may find relief in its domestic atmosphere. The Wilsons will be just like home folks, and so may play good politics after all.

We think, however, that in justice to the curiosity of the country, President Wilson might write a little unofficial message, explaining his atti-

tude toward society and the lighter aspects of being a great man. He would run less risk of being misunderstood and becoming unpopular.

TEST CITY MATERIALS.

The Administrative Board ordered an investigation of a lubricating oil reported by the City Chemist to contain acids that would be injurious to the machinery the oil is supposed to preserve. This incident, slight in itself, calls attention to the fact that the city is a constant purchaser of all kinds of supplies. Would it not be a good plan, therefore, to institute some sort of testing department, or laboratory, by which the exact nature and value of materials might be determined? We presume that some work of this type is done by the City Chemist and the Engineer's office. But we believe that money could be saved to the community in initial costs and in durability and wearing quality of materials, were a closer scrutiny made of construction supplies.

For example, on the same day, a permit for sewer pipe tests was granted. The pipe is to be erected on a vacant lot, and so submitted to examination. Yet such a superficial test will in no scientific sense prove the availability of the material for actual use under conditions far different from those of mere weather exposure. Again, certain new forms of illuminating electric lamps are to be erected for inspection. Is it possible to measure the lighting value, cost and deterioration of a lamp under such haphazard conditions? Would it not be more satisfactory and more accurate to measure these things by the delicate methods of the laboratory?

Last year when Broad Street was to be paved considerable discussion arose as to the merits of various paving compositions. It should be possible to determine the facts in such cases by experimental methods. In New York recently specimen stretches of some forty paving materials were laid down under standard traffic conditions. We believe that asphalt block makes a good roadway, but there may be other and cheaper forms of surfacing that would do admirably for light-traveled residence streets. A testing department would ascertain these possibilities.

In St. Louis nearly \$10,000 is spent each year in the maintenance of a testing laboratory of skilled engineers and chemists. This outlay is not an expense, but a saving, in that it guarantees the city the best class of material. Even the paper and inks used in the departments are tested. Every batch of cement is standard. Every brick in the streets must pass specified tests.

Richmond cannot be so ambitious. But it is possible to invest a certain amount in tests to guarantee against loss or poor service.

OVERTURNING PRECEDENT.

Great Britain is progressing rapidly along the path of breaking away from time-honored political customs and institutions, and overturning constitutional precedents.

Together with "the one vote one value" and parliamentary redistribution movement comes a strong demand for the reduction of the total membership of the House of Commons. The Commons now consists of 670 seats, constituting the largest legislative assembly in the world. A leading Unionist journal in urging the reduction says a great majority of the members are superfluous, since they only waste their time hanging about the lobbies and the tea-room, waiting for divisions. In any case, it argues, "this waste would be a loss to the nation, for many members of Parliament would be doing excellent service to their country either in business, their professions or public work." Another consideration presented by our British contemporary is that now that members are paid for their service, or lack of service, considerable money could be saved by reductions.

Certainly sound reasoning that, it would appear. And certainly, moreover, it would seem that under "one vote one value" reform a smaller body would be far more truly representative of the people than the present over-large one could be, even if the majority of its members did not waste their own and the nation's time.

THE VICE-PRESIDENTS CABINET.

Let us at this solemn moment contemplate the horrid fate of the Vice-President. Who knows where he is or what he is doing? In a hurry, who can give his middle initial? He is in the terrible predicament of viewing with alarm his own annihilation. He is about to be inaugurated into nothingness. Easy is the descent into the vice-presidency, but not one has ever "come back." They become human fly wheels, perpetual hearers of their own words. They wear crowns of tin and wield sceptres of lath.

Is this in accord with the well-known, but frequently indecipherable, sense of justice of the American people? We defy any man to say that it is. We assuage the welkin (if the welkin still wells) as it was wont in senatorial tones with an appeal to rescue this amiable man from a living tomb, give him something to do. Give him somebody to do. Give him anything—if it be only a well-seasoned stick to whittle.

To be brief, we urge that the special session of Congress make arrangements for the Vice-President to have a Cabinet. It is clear that a Cabinet is the source of the "I should worry" joys of chief life. Choosing a Cabinet, training it to fetch and carry, and sitting on it at odd moments, ought to give any fair-minded ship of state first-rate occupation enough to keep him from going insane while listening to the Senate for four long, hard years. Moreover, there are certain absolutely fundamental interests of the American people that need Cabinet protection. It is idle to pretend that there are only nine main branches of American activity. The present Cabinet is out of date. It is an antique. It does not represent things close to the heart of the populace. What good did the Secretary of the Treasury ever do you? Whose interior does that Secretary

look after? The Postmaster-General is the only human Cabinet officer.

In light of this we suggest the following appointments for the Vice-President's Cabinet. If he has control over these items, he will become incandescent from the torrid beams of the lime-light. Mr. Wilson will sometimes be mentioned on the want ad, page as "among those present." The Constitution will be revised downward, so the President can have the Vice-President's place in case the latter is lynched. The real departments of the national government, with the proper heads, are these:

Elbert Hubbard, Secretary of Advertising; John J. McGraw, Secretary of Baseball; General Rosalie Jones, Secretary of Women; John Kendrick Bangs, Secretary of Humor and Pensions for Disabled Jokes; Edward Bok, Secretary of Fashions and Light Gossip; Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Secretress of Domestic Servants; David Belasco, Secretary of "Movies"; John D. Rockefeller, Extra Secretary of Millionaires; Eugene V. Debs, Under Secretary of Under Dogs; Bernard Shaw, International Secretary of Propagandas, Cults and Isms.

We apologize for putting in Bernard Shaw, an Englishman, but every American has his own ism and could not be impartial. "Muggsy" McGraw would be Cabinet head, because he is the best known man in America and represents the country's chief interest. However, all the other departments are manifestly those with which the people are most concerned, and if he meets the demands created hereby, the Vice-President will never get lonesome.

PROFITS FROM ABANDONED LANDS.

After many millions had been obtained from their forest products the lands in Northern Michigan and Minnesota were abandoned by the lumber companies. Within the past few years, however, it has been realized that these waste areas, although partly covered with water and scrub timber, may be made to yield additional profit. Large holdings have been purchased, principally by Eastern interests, and capital has been secured for clearing and placing immense tracts under cultivation. As a part of the financial plans of these operations, funds are also available for bringing families to the land and for maintaining them until they have become self-supporting. Handsome profits have already been realized by the promoters and even larger returns are expected in the future from advances in land values and from the sale of the products of the areas which have been converted into farms or orchards.

Similar undertakings in the South would require a much smaller outlay of capital and would yield proportionately much larger profits than have been obtained in the Northwest. South of Richmond and within easy distance of its markets, there are thousands of acres of waste lands from which the first growth of timber has been taken. Large areas may be bought at very low prices per acre. The second growth timber when converted into shingles or staves would probably return in profits the original amount of the purchase, or, at least, would afford sufficient funds to bring the land under cultivation, and to place settlers upon it. The whole or a large part of the amount obtained from the sale of the land to truck and other farmers would be clear profit. A great opportunity exists for business men with broad vision to add to the wealth and trade of Richmond and to develop the agricultural resources of Virginia, and, at the same time, to secure handsome returns for their own services and for the capital invested.

At Washington they have decided upon \$50 per month as the least salary a married man can live on comfortably and maintain his station. It is wiser to start at the bottom and provide for the least amount a worker needs than to follow the more popular American plan for worrying about what is the most that a man can exist on.

It is said that 20 per cent of the measles cases were cured without a doctor. The fact remains that proper control of all cases by doctors would mean less cases to minister to.

The fans of the "Winter Stove League" have about decided to open the windows and let a little real baseball drive out the smoke from their pipes.

If Texas declares war on its own hook maybe it would be a good idea to let Mexico take her back.

The Suffragist Hikers wanted to "generalize" the country, and now they find they must generalize each other.

The only redeeming feature about the wind is that when it whistles through the keyholes it sounds like the pleasant piping of spring birds.

If anything, some of the names of the new dances are worse than the dances themselves. Let's taboo mentioning them.

One reform they might make in ice cream is to have the peach cream taste less like varnish and more like peach.

Our opinion is that the window-dressers on Broad Street have designs on the masculine pocket-book.

The oyster experts may disagree, but as long as the oysters do not, they are forgiven.

Shaw declines to testify about bribery. We do think it is an anticlimax from murder.

Some of the enemies of proposed Cabinet members are the chief arguments in their favor.

To plagiarize a great thinker: The more we read about Mexico the better we like dogs.

Cheer up! The ducks are flying North.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

At Last.
In eighteen hundred and twenty when Jim Purdy was nineteen, he wrote a comic story for a well known magazine. The story was accepted by the editor and when Jim Purdy got the news he was the happiest of men. He thought, of course, his story would within a month appear. But strange to say it didn't get in print at all that year. Ten years he waited, then he wrote anxiously to learn the reason, and they told him that his yarn must wait its turn. He called upon the editor along in sixty-four.

And was informed his story was still waiting in the line. He asked for information as to when it might appear. They told him that it might perhaps, come out most any year. Jim Purdy waited patiently and lost his teeth and hair. And bought such issues, hoping he would find his story there. He talked about it all day long and dreamed of it at night. His great-grandchildren's children could not understand him quite.

One day the mail man brought a check. Old Jim pricked up his ears. 'Twas what he had been waiting for night on to ninety years. That week was sure a lucky one. The magazine came, too. He trembled with excitement as he looked the pages through. His one hundred and seven years all seemed to leave him when he let a warhoo out which seemed to make him young again. "I'll write some more," he chuckled, as he quite forgot the past. "I've lived to see the thing in print. They've published it at last."

From the Hickoryville Clarion.
Somebody stole Constable Ezra Hand's dark lantern last week and he ain't been able to detect much crime since. He has got nine lanterns in the calabash on suspicion, and as every one of them had fifteen or twenty slugs in his pocket when searched the constable believes he will land the guilty party before very long.

Deacon Pringle has asked several young men their intentions toward his daughter, Miss Amy Pringle, who is a milliner, and not one of them would admit that he had any intentions whatever, so the deacon has put a sign on his front gate: "No admittance except on business." A funeral, although it may seem humorous to the choir singers and the undertaker. The only feature of a funeral is seen in the relatives all set in one room and every one another up, trying to make up their minds whether to speak to one or other or not. When James Spink was buried two of the cousins got into a fight and the fence that both had had forgotten to remove before, and James was upset before the minister and undertaker could pry the cousins apart.

Which Would You Rather Be?
A boardinghouse keeper's husband? A dressmaker's husband? Or a trained nurse's husband? We answer our questions a la Jim J. Morton.

We would rather be the husband of a \$12000 a week vaudeville actress.

Voice of the People

Florida Oranges Not Frozen.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Our attention has been called to a clipping from your issue of February 20, headed: "Frozen Oranges," in which was given the report of the Florida orange crop, and is preparing to protect local purchasers," etc., etc.

You also state: "On complaint of people, inspectors of the State Dairy and Food Department recently examined a carload of oranges from Northern Florida and found them to be frozen, and consequently unfit for consumption."

There has been no freeze in Florida in the citrus district this year, and we presume, therefore, that your article is meant to say California oranges are frozen; and as you have undoubtedly published this erroneous statement in good faith, but under misinformation, we call your attention to it and ask that you correct the statement and give us the name of your informant in order that we may also correct his misinformation and endeavor to trace down this rumor and find where it originated.

The city of Tampa is in the heart of the citrus belt, and the headquarters of the exchange are located there, and the minimum that the thermometer has reached at Tampa since July 1, 1912, was 41 degrees.

Florida has been suffering this year from too little, and not too much, cold, and there is no frozen or frosted fruit in this State to any absolute certainty, nor has there been any this year.

Very truly yours,
FLORIDA CITRUS EXCHANGE,
W. C. Temple, General Manager.

Disagrees With the Rev. Dr. James.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I was very much grieved and shocked to read in your paper of the

Abe Martin

Many of the fellows talk in five figures that don't cut any. The knockers is the only fraternity in the world that kin hold together without a banquet.

TAKING HIS TURN.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS

Better Land in Mecklenburg.

Land in the extreme Southern part of Texas was four years ago sold at \$150 per acre. Ten thousand acres of the same land has been converted into truck farms and is now worth \$500 (more or less) per acre. In that same section four flourishing cities have sprung up making it one of the most attractive places in the whole country. The land around Clarksville is better than the land in that section, and this is the healthiest place not should be more attractive to home seekers.—Mecklenburg Times-Star.

Well Worth Seeing.

The editor of the County News acknowledges receipt from the Richmond Times-Dispatch of a handsome card countersigned J. St. George Bryan, president. The wording upon it conveys the information that it is a pass to the head of this office. To all departments of The Times-Dispatch. Good until December 31, 1913, unless otherwise ordered. For this the County News desires to make appreciative acknowledgement. Particularly as the accompanying letter says: "If, however, you should happen to leave it in your editorial sanctum, please be assured that a hearty welcome awaits you." The typographical appearance of The Times-Dispatch leaves no doubt that the plant from which it is printed would be a spectacle of great interest to any of the newspaper craft.—Rockbridge County News.

When Is a Cow Not Beef?

Science has made many discoveries, but so far it has never been able to tell how old a cow should be when she is not considered tender beef.—Staunton Leader.

On the Job.

Commissioner of the Revenue Runald has been making his rounds in Manassas this week, and in his asides is carrying out strictly the ironclad instructions received from State Auditor Moore.—Manassas Journal.

Not at All.

The effort to introduce Bible study in the Richmond schools is meeting with strenuous opposition. Unfamiliar and foreign subjects won't go in that staid old burg.—Blackstone Courier.

Know Them by Their Premises.

Now is a good time to take a glance over your backyards and devise some plan to ostracize the fruit cans and rubbish which have accumulated since the last installment was removed. You can generally judge of the occupants of a house by the condition in which the front and back yards are kept. In a general sense we all put ourselves on being cleanly and tidy. Home and its surroundings above all places in the world should be scrupulously guarded against contaminating influences.—North Emporia Independent.

Remember the Other Mexican Row.

If Mexico doesn't behave herself we'll have to go down and do for her what we did sixty odd years ago—spank her. I well remember the furore created by the call for volunteers to go to Mexico—the torchlight processions, the patriotic harangues of those fellows who didn't go, and the intense enthusiasm of the whole populace. I hope it will not be necessary as "living" is high enough in the United States.—"East End," in the Charlottesville Progress.

The Free Seed Graft.

The dear people who reside in the country districts are now receiving their annual supply of seeds from the

government. We return our most grateful thanks for the very valuable and rare collection sent to this office. What a truck garden we can make with these five packages of seed—parsnip, onion, lettuce, radish and Brussels sprouts. From the very small quantity in a packet we are dead sure they are very rare and valuable—or else why send them out? But, seriously, there is not a gardener in all this section who would stoop to pick them up were he to find them in his path. O, the humbug of this nonsensical free seed distribution. Will the people always submit to this wasteful expenditure of their money.—Houston Record-Advertiser.

Hillsville Juror Needs Help.

Piper Gap, Va., February 28, 1913.
Dear Readers,—I am one of the jurors that was shot in the Hillsville tragedy on March 14, 1912. Since then I have not been able to work. Unfortunately, I am not blessed with much of this world's goods, and if any one should be so kind as to want to help me, any amount would be thankfully received. Respectfully,
C. C. CAIN.
—Carroll Journal.

A Bright School Paper.

"Chanticleer," the new monthly publication of the Franklin High School, is a bright little four-page paper, filled with a good assortment of original stories by the students, news of interest to the scholars, etc. The paper is well patronized in the advertising columns by local business houses.—Tide-water News.

Harmony.

The Richmond College Glee Club delighted the Normal girls with their sweet singing and artistic playing. When the college boys meet with the Normal girls, there come the supreme joys. Only once a boy for such occasions. Farmville correspondence, James River Clarion.

Another Cabinet State.

Well, I am glad it is all over, and Wilson is President. I do hope he will make Bryan Secretary of State. I wouldn't care if Roosevelt was made Secretary of War, then one could Dewey of the Navy. Wouldn't it be a big team? My! what courage it would put in our boys! If the little Japs should interfere with any of Uncle Sam's domain they would get a spanking. They would first be duly warned by Wilson and Bryan. If they persisted Roosevelt and the Navy man would take them in hand.—Correspondence, James River Clarion.

The Best Type.

General George Washington Custis Lee, son of General Robert Edward Lee, possessed that distinguishing quality of his father—modesty. He never exploited himself and for the past several years had lived in retirement. Like his father, again, he was soldier in time of war and educator in time of peace, an always and in whatever condition was a Virginia patriot and the best type of Virginia manhood.

A Platform Is Made to Stand On.

The platform is admirable; it is distinctly in line with progressive Democracy.—Times-Dispatch.
As a rule the majority of political platforms are admirable, but sometimes drawn up with glittering generalities to catch the votes of the thoughtless. The trouble lies with the framers of the platform, if they or their clique get into office, to faithfully carry out the principles of good government which they have advocated.—Fredericksburg Journal.

The Old Yellow Horse.

The old yellow horse, familiar to the eye of Lebanon, that, raised, a big family for Marsh McCloud, died in harness last week.—Lebanon News.

National State and City Bank Talks

Our Savings Department

The National State and City Bank maintains a completely equipped savings department, in which it invites accounts from \$1.00 upwards.

It pays 3 per cent compound interest on savings, and an additional feature greatly appreciated lies in the fact that interest is paid from the date of deposit if the money remains in the bank sixty days or longer.

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